

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3774

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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SUBJECT: ECUADOR'S OFFICIAL REACTION TO TRADE BILL

THERE FOLLOWS IN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION THE TEXT OF A PRESS
RELEASE FROM PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' PRESS SECRETARIAT ON
THE MATTER OF ECUADOR'S EXCLUSION, AS AN OPEC MEMBER,
FROM THE GSP PROVISIONS OF THE NEW TRADE BILL:

QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR REJECTS THE TRADE ACT
APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
IT EXPRESSLY PUTS ON RECORD ITS DEEP CONCERN BECAUSE THAT
LAW INCLUDES AN EXPRESS REFERENCE, AMONG OTHERS, TO
THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OPEC, AND ITS CONDEMNATION
BECAUSE IT WILL LEAD, IN EFFECT, TO THE INEFFECTIVENESS
OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS OR DIALOGUES BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA
AND THE UNITED STATES, INASMUCH AS IT IS
IN CONFLICT WITH THE COMMITMENTS ASSUMED BY THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT THE FORUM OF UNCTAD AND INCOMPATIBLE
WITH THE CHARTER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,
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PARTICULARLY WITH ARTICLES 19, 34 AND 37, AS WELL AS

WITH THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE CONTINENT AT THE TLATELOLCO DECLARATION. ON EVERY OCCASION, THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR HAS ADVISED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF ITS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE NEW TRADE ACT BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS. THUS, DURING THE 15TH MEETING OF THE AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS HELD IN QUITO IN NOVEMBER, 1974, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, DR. ANTONIO JOSE LUCIO PAREDES, STATED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. ROBERT INGERSOLL, AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. WILLIAM ROGERS, THAT THE PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT TRADE ACT, WHICH HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED BY THE U.S. CONGRESS, CONTAINED A DISCRIMINATORY POLICY AGAINST THE PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE OPEC, AS THEY EXCLUDE THEM FROM THE BENEFIT OF THE PREFERENTIAL CUSTOMS TARIFFS FOR THEIR IMPORTATION INTO THE AMERICAN MARKET, AND SUCH ACTION IS AN ATTACK ON THE MOST ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND PEACEFULLY LIVING TOGETHER.

ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR, THE LATIN AMERICAN GROUP OF THE CECON, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT THE ACT AFORESAID AFFECTS NOT ONLY THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OPEC, BUT ALSO, POTENTIALLY, ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN STATES, AND THAT ITS TEXT AND SPIRIT DO NOT AGREE WITH THE EXISTING PRINCIPLES AS SET FORTH IN THE CHARTER OF THE OAS OR THE COMMITMENTS ASSUMED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WITH THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA, PROPOSED THAT THE MEETINGS OF CECON SHOULD BE ADJOURNED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BE HELD IN BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH, 1975, OR UNTIL THE FIFTH REGULAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS IN APRIL, 1975, FOR A DECISION, SINCE LATIN AMERICA CANNOT CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS OR DIALOGUES OF ANY KIND UNDER COERCION OR THREATS. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS TRADITIONAL POLICY OF NOT ACCEPTING ANY KIND OF COERCION, THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR RENEWS ITS UTTER REJECTION OF THE NEW TRADE ACT OF THE UNITED STATES, BECAUSE, EVEN ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE APPLICATION OF THE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES

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CONTEMPLATED THEREIN IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE JURIDICAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM AND THE THREATS OF COMPULSION AND COERCION WOULD STILL BE HANGING OVER THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, AND SERIOUSLY AFFECTING THEIR DIGNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY. QUITO, DEC 22, 1974 UNQUOTE

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